
Subject:

FW: Invocation

From: Nina Faust <fausbail@horizonsatellite.com>

Date: November 15, 2016 at 8:01:28 AM AKST

To: Johni Blankenship <jblankenship@borough.kenai.ak.us>

Subject: Invocation

Please send this to the Borough Assembly members and the Mayor.

P.O. Box 2994
Homer AK 99603

Re: Invocation

Dear Assembly Members and Mr. Mayor:

I am appalled that the Assembly has passed an unconstitutional ordinance restricting who can give an invocation. Trying to defend the current ordinance, which will be very expensive, is fiscally irresponsible given the shortage of money for so many important needs in the Borough. We have a critical need to address our budget, save money where we can, and increase revenue to cover essential programs like education, health care, and public safety for starters.

I urge you to either go back to the original ordinance or as many other assemblies have done, do away with the invocation. Either of these two solutions are acceptable in my view, but it is not acceptable to keep the current unconstitutional ordinance and spend our precious public funds to defend it. There are so many better ways to use this money.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

Subject:

FW: Invocation comment for all assembly members

From: Dotti Harness [mailto:dottiharness@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 8:46 PM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Invocation comment for all assembly members

Dear Assembly members,

Re: Do not support invocation

We write to urge you not to support the ordinance that would allocate \$75,000 to cover legal fees to defend what appears to be an unconstitutional invocation policy. We are not that kind of community. I encourage you to look for solutions that maintain respect for all while avoiding costly legal fees (at the taxpayers' expense).

Listed in order of cost savings and our recommendation:

- 1. No invocation: results in no staff time tracking who is eligible to speak, and when.
- 2. A moment a silence: provides every individual in the room, public included, a moment to reflect upon good decision-making and judgment, based on his or her personal beliefs.
- 3. The current invocation ordinance takes more staff time, website management, and opens the door for litigation.

Is this a legal battle in which the people of Kenai Peninsula want to engage? *NO.*

Regardless of beliefs, it is right to use taxpayer's dollars to fight this? *NO*

Respectfully submitted,

Dotti Harness-Foster
Dr. Rick Foster
Homer, Alaska 99603

Subject:

FW: Invocation

-----Original Message-----

From: Russell Miller [<mailto:rustical3@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 12:36 PM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Invocation

It's very clear, "Separation of church and state". Keep mythology out of government. You will loose a law suit. If the assembly continues to push forward with the suit and they loose, all legal fees should be paid by these litigants. Russell

Sent from my iPhone

Subject:

FW: Invocation

From: Eric Clark [<mailto:manfrommars@gci.net>]

Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2016 7:19 PM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Invocation

I agree as a resident of KPB that the KPB should fight the ACLU and to restrict the invocation to the person delivering an invocation to open a meeting must be a representative of a religious association approved by the assembly, or by a chaplain who serves a fire department, law enforcement agency, hospital or similar group in the borough.

Subject:

FW: 'Invocation"

From: Bob McCard [<mailto:bmccard@alaska.net>]

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 11:26 AM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: 'Invocation"

Dear Borough Assembly Members:

With all the controversy surrounding the "invocation" before Assembly meetings and the possibility of a lawsuit, I would like to suggest and encourage you to just have a "Moment of Silence" instead of an "invocation" and eliminate a possible lawsuit.

Thank you for your time and consideration and thank you for serving on the Assembly.

Sincerely,

Bob McCard
Kasilof, AK

Subject:

FW: Borough invocation - \$75K for lawyers?!

From: Jones, Michael [mailto:mjones@eaest.com]

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 4:26 PM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Borough invocation - \$75K for lawyers?!

I initially thought this was nothing more than a bit of silliness when it first came up but \$75K for lawyers?! Are you all kidding me?! I'm a Kenai Borough Taxpayer for 13 years now with a 3-bedroom home in Anchor Point and strongly believe this now has descended into complete and utter **NONSENSE!** How dare the Borough spend taxpayer money on this ridiculous business! Enough with the invocation BS! It should be eliminated entirely and the Borough Assembly should get to the business of running the borough! If they want religious service, they need to go to Church and leave it there! Unbelievable.

Mike A. Jones, P.E.
34179 HMS Resolution Road
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Subject:

FW: legal fees and invocation policy

From: Jane Miles [<mailto:jane-flyfish@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 7:28 PM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: legal fees and invocation policy

Dear May Navarre, and Borough assembly members,

I am a resident of Homer and have lived in the borough 21 years. I urge you not to spend one dollar of borough money on legal fees to try to defend an obviously unconstitutional policy. **Just do away with the invocation!**

There is far too much important work to do and pursuing this divisive issue will only push the assembly and residents to polarized sides that will harm a spirit of cooperation and working for the community good. Let the invocation policy go..... do not spend my money on a lost cause. The budget, health care, jobs these are the types of issues you should be dealing with. Thank you

Jane Miles

PO box 2508

Homer, Ak 99603

Subject:

FW: Invocations

-----Original Message-----

From: Greg Andersen [mailto:akgreg@mail.com]

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 7:45 AM

To: jblankenship@kpb.us.

Subject: Invocations

My name is Greg Andersen and I live in Kenai. I am writing this email to you about my concerns regarding money being appropriated to pay for legal fees to fight legal challenges to the invocation rules the borough has. This is absolutely ridiculous. Is this really what the borough should be focusing their attention on? Figuring out which religion meets your criteria to be able to say the prayer at the beginning of the meeting? Absolutely not! Get rid of the prayer and move on. Wasting our tax money on this is criminal in my view.

Greg Andersen

Kenai

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Subject:

FW: Invocation

From: David Pearson [<mailto:davidelipearson@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 4:27 AM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Invocation

Dear kpb

I have never felt comfortable at invocations at GOVERNMENT meetings. Keep the religion out of it. If you feel there is a void have a moment of silence. Let those who need to look to their god or gods do so silently. There is absolutely no need to mix religious invocations with government meetings. Drop the invocation, save the money, have a moment of silence and get on with it.

David Eli Pearson

Moose Pass

9072050824

Subject:

FW: Invocation Policy

From: Alsup, Emily [<mailto:Emily.Alsup@providence.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 8:45 AM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Invocation Policy

Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

As a tax payer on the Kenai Peninsula, I am outraged that my tax dollars are being spent on this invocation issue!

Religion has NO place in government. Period. To further the insult, the Assembly has asked for a resolution to the invocation policy that would exclude members of our extended community based on religion.

For Shame!

Alaska is facing a fiscal crisis and this is what our elected officials are spending their time and OUR resources on?

I strongly implore the Assembly to drop this issue. If it can't be completely inclusive, get rid of the invocation all together and get back to the governing for your electorate.

-Emily Alsup
Seward, AK

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Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough [mailto:webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us]**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 9:56 AM**To:** BoroughAssembly <Borough-Assembly@kpb.us>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Name:** scott Simmons**Email:** whatsupscott@gmail.com**Subject:** \$75 K? Really?**Message:**

Hello all. I'm aghast that anyone is contemplating spending ANY of my tax dollars on a frivolous lawsuit that you will, from the front side, obviously lose. Hopefully it won't get to this and you can agree on a plan with or without an invocation that works for the borough residents. I believe that each of you agreed to uphold the Constitution when you took the oath of office. Please leave your personal religious beliefs out of this governmental body. Thank you.